

PARENT NEWSLETTER

February 2020



February and early March are going to be busy months! Listed below are some of the events you may be interested in knowing about.

Feb. 7 is a SPIRIT DAY. Students and staff will have a little fun by having the opportunity to dress like their favorite animal. Just one small request please – no masks.

Feb. 20 is a fun activity to promote literacy/reading. All students are encouraged to wear a shirt with words on it. This can be in the form of printed sayings or they can be creative and attach (stitched on, pinned on attached with Velcro), words of kindness or other positive character traits. Some examples are: trustworthy, forgiving, honest, accountable, a good friend, helpful etc.

Feb 26 students will enjoy our annual “Be Kind Assembly”. Classes will have the opportunity to be involved if they wish. We encourage all students to wear something pink; it does not have to be a shirt – anything goes.

Feb. 27 is a fundraiser for Canuck Place. On this day, we will have the Canuck Place Cookie Day (thru Munch-a-lunch). Cookies are to be ordered through the online system. What a great way to have a treat and support a fantastic cause.

Feb. 28 Reading Under the Stars in your PJ’S! This is another opportunity to promote a love of reading. Between recess and lunch, students (in their cozy PJ’s) will go to the gym with their favorite book, a flashlight and their “Big Buddy” to read under the stars. A night sky and the sounds of the evening will set the tone for a near silent, peaceful setting to enjoy a story/book. Students are asked to bring a \$1 donation if possible. The funds will be used to cover the cost of another Art Start Performance later in the spring. The theme/topic will be aligned with story-telling and or reading.

March 3 Choral Festival at Bell Centre. The grade 2/3 choir and intermediate choir will be performing at the Bell Centre for Performing Arts. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase their voices, have the experience of singing to a large audience at a professional venue and demonstrate how well they have learned to work together and follow through on a commitment under the guidance of Miss Weitzel and Mr. Trebesh.

Aussie Fundraiser – March 4 and 5. We have all heard of the terrible fires in Australia that have impacted so many people and animals. Latimer students, staff and community want to help! You will be receiving information in the next week regarding what we are planning. There is also an attachment providing preliminary information. It involves some fun lunch-hour activities, baking and a raffle. Thank you to Jennie W. who is spearheading this fundraiser.

Help our environment and our health

As of late, we have many cars idling outside the school for 15, 20, 25 minutes each day. In addition to adding unnecessary pollutants to the air, it has a negative impact on your children and others who are in the area. The cold weather is now over for the year. Please turn your vehicle off when waiting in the drive-through area or on the street near the school. Thank you for this. We want to keep everyone healthy and our fragile ecosystem in the best shape possible.

Staff Parking Lot

Despite numerous requests, we still have some people parking in the Staff Parking Lot. As previously mentioned, we have more staff than stalls and also staff that come and go at different times. If you see an empty stall, it is most likely only temporary!

Beginning next week, all staff will be issued a numbered parking pass to display on their front dash. This way, if they are double parked due to no stalls being available, we can easily contact them. Other vehicles who are parked in the lot without a pass run the risk of being ticketed and towed.

Student Teachers

Latimer Road is pleased to host another group of Simon Fraser University students. We believe we have a strong group of teachers who can mentor and guide the SFU students in their journey to becoming teachers. This spring we have students working in K, gr. 1, gr. 2 and in both a primary and intermediate Montessori class.

Late Arrivals

We continue to have well over 10% of our students arriving late each morning. Patterns/routines are set early and we are doing our best to teach the students that school is like a job and arriving on time is necessary as when students arrive late, they interrupt the lesson for others and the classroom teacher is in a position of having to "re-teach". By the time children begin school, it is not unreasonable to teach them how to set an alarm clock and wake up on their own to begin the morning routines. Additionally, early bedtimes will help them feel refreshed in the mornings.

We understand the parking lot is busy therefore, leaving for school 10 minutes earlier might be a good option. There is morning supervision beginning at 8:15 AM. Thank you in advance for helping us teach the children about time management.